

Message Text

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45

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 EA-13 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-10 PRS-01 DODE-00

L-02 RSR-01 /070 W

----- 116677

R 180936 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3334

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10876

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: CIVILIAN DETAINEES - GVN INVITATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS TO VISIT PRISONS

REF: STATE 117947

1. SAIGON REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF RED
CROSS (ICRC) AND LEAGUE OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES
(LICROSS) HAVE CONFIRMED THAT GVN IN MAY INVITED BOTH
ORGANIZATIONS TO VISIT CIVILIAN PRISONS IN SVN. INVITATION FIRST
EXTENDED TO SAIGON ICRC DELEGATION, LATER REPEATED BY AIDE -
MEMOIRE TO ICRC HEADQUARTERS GENEVA. AFTER ICRC REFUSAL
WAS CONFIRMED, GVN APPROACH MADE TO LICROSS.

2. ICRC SENIOR DELEGATE ZUGER EXPLAINED THAT ERMS OF INVITA-
TION SPECIFIED THAT NO PRIVATE INTERVIEWS WOULD BE ALLOWED WITH
DETAINEES; THEREFORE VISIT WOULD BE NO MORE THAN " TYPE OF TOUR
ORGANIZED FOR NEWSMEN AND DIPLOMATS " AND WOULD NOT MEET ICRC
STANDARDS. AS MATTER OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY, LICROSS COULD
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NOT ACCEPT INVITATION WHICH FAILED TO MEET ICRC STANDARDS. ZUGER ALSO OPINED THAT LICROSS REFUSAL WOULD BE BINDING ON NATIONAL SOCIETIES WHICH SHOULD REFUSE ANY INVITATION TO VISIT PRISONS IN VIET- NAM, INCLUDING INVITATION ISSUED UNDER ARTICLE 9 B OF PRISONER PROTOCOL UNLESS PRIVATE INTERVIEWS WITH DETAINEES WERE PROMISED.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ZUGER INTERPRETATION OF THEORETICAL EFFECT OF RED CROSS POLICY MAY BE CORRECT, WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS BUREAUCRACY WOULD ACTIVELY SEEK TO FRUSTRATE ANY FORTHCOMING INVITATIONS TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR ACTION UNDER PARAGRAPH 8 C OF PARIS COMMUNIQUE. END COMMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: MOPS
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GENEVA
JEC PARIS
OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC
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